


IN THE CLAIMS

Existing claims 10-15 are amended and new claims 15-21 which in effect include previously pending claims 2, 4, 7 and 9.

The claims are presented here in accordance with the revised format announced in the Notice From the U.S. Patent And Trademark Office dated February 13, 2003 authorizing parties to use the format for amendments based on proposed revisions to Rule 37 CFR § 1.121.

All the claims in the application are as follows:

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1. (Canceled)
 2. (Canceled)
 3. (Canceled)
 4. (Canceled)
 5. (Canceled)
 6. (Canceled)
 7. (Canceled)
 8. (Canceled)
 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Added Now Amended) A method for transferring a plurality of pipette tips from a container to a holding tray, comprising the steps of:

providing a container for holding a plurality of receiving plates in a stack, each of said receiving

plates being configured to hold a plurality of pipette tips in an array;

providing a stack of receiving plates unconnected to and unconnectable to any other structure

and having only a plurality of apertures formed therein each sized to receive a pipette tip

therethrough, each receiving plate having a plurality of and-pipette tips in a container

each disposed in one of said plurality of apertures, each of said pipette tips having a first end and a second end spaced from said first end, said first end having an opening extending into said pipette tip,

~~said container having a volume to hold a~~ said stack of receiving plates including a first receiving plate with a first plurality of pipette tips disposed in a first pattern thereon and a second receiving plate with a second plurality of pipette tips disposed in a second ~~said first pattern~~ thereon, said second pattern being arranged to position said second end of said pipette tips in said second pattern to nest ~~and arranged to be nested~~ into the openings of said first plurality of pipette tips, ~~said container including a base having a length and a width, a pair of opposing side walls and a pair of opposing end walls arranged to define said volume, said side walls each having a cut out portion formed therein, said container further having support means positioned within said container proximate said base and connected to one of said side walls, said end walls and said base, said support means being positioned for elevating said first receiving plate above said base;~~ positioning said stack of receiving plates with pipette tips into said container;

providing a transfer member that is shaped to fit within said container, said transfer member configured to not be connectable to any receiving plate of said stack of receiving plates, said transfer member having an upper surface and a lower surface and a plurality of projections arranged in said first pattern, each projection of said plurality of projections extending from said lower surface a preselected distance to effect ~~affect~~ stable engagement with a corresponding first end of a pipette tip when said projection is received into said ~~opening~~ first opening of said pipette tip;

providing a holding tray positioned on a support surface, said holding tray having an upper wall spaced from said support surface and a plurality of apertures extending through said upper wall and arranged in said first pattern;

grasping said transfer member with the thumb and forefinger of a user and positioning said transfer member over said container;

aligning the projections of said transfer member with the openings of said second plurality of pipette tips;

lowering said transfer member into said container until said projections extend into and engage with said second plurality of pipette tips;

grasping both said transfer member and said second receiving plate with the thumb and a forefinger of said user and holding them together while ~~and removing~~ said transfer member, and said second receiving plate ~~and~~ with said second plurality of pipette tips from said container;

positioning said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips over said holding tray;

aligning ~~such that~~ said second plurality of pipette tips ~~are aligned~~ with said plurality of apertures of said holding tray;

lowering said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips toward said holding tray until said second plurality of pipette tips has been inserted into and engaged with corresponding apertures of said holding tray;

releasing said thumb and forefinger from said transfer member and said second receiving plate;

and

removing said transfer member from said ~~second receiving plate and said second plurality of~~ pipette tips.

11. (Previously Added Now Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said ~~stack of receiving plates and pipette tips~~ has a first receiving plate positioned on said support means. transfer member and said second receiving plate are grasped with and between the thumb and a finger other than the forefinger of said user and are held together thereby with the first knuckle of the forefinger being urged against the upper surface of said transfer member while removing said transfer member, and said second receiving plate with said second plurality of pipette tips from said container.


12. (Previously Added) The method of claim 10, wherein said container has a rectangular cross section defined by said length and width and wherein said first receiving plate has a rectangular shape with dimensions substantially equal to said length and width.

13. (Previous Added Now Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said stack of receiving plates and pipette tips has a third receiving plate unconnected to any other structure with a plurality of apertures formed therein sized to receive pipette tips therethrough, said third receiving plate being positioned over said second plurality of pipette tips, and said third receiving plate having a third plurality of pipette tips in a third pattern extending through the apertures of said ~~second~~ third receiving plate and into the first ends of said second plurality of pipette tips, and wherein said ~~projections of said transfer member~~ is registerable with the first ends of pipette tips of said third plurality of pipette tips ~~is used to transfer said third plurality of~~

pipette tips and said third receiving plate from said container to said holding tray prior to transferring said second plurality of pipette tips and said second receiving plate from said container to said holding tray.

14. (Previous Added) The method of claim 13, wherein said stack of receiving plates and pipette tips comprises "n" layers of receiving plates and pluralities of pipette tips, and wherein each one of said "n" layers is transferred from said container to said holding tray in a sequential manner, transferring the " i^{th} " layer prior to transferring the " $i-1^{\text{th}}$ " layer.

15. (New Claim) The method of claim 10 wherein said first array and said second array contain the same number of pipette tips.



16. (New Claim) A system for positioning pipette tips into a dispensing tray which has a matrix of tray apertures sized to receive pipette tips therein, said system comprising: a plurality of pipette tips each having a length;
a receiving card unconnected to any other structure and configured to not be attachable to any

other structure, said receiving card having only a matrix of card apertures formed therein each sized for positioning one of said pipette tips there through to further register with an aperture of a matrix of tray apertures of a dispensing tray, said receiving card having an upper surface spaced from a lower surface, said card apertures each being shaped and sized to receive a pipette tip to hold said pipette tip with a portion extending a spacing distance away from said upper surface of said receiving card, said receiving card having a

length and a width and said receiving card having two opposite card edges extending along said length of said receiving card in substantial alignment; and

a transfer member for engaging and maintaining said pipette tips in a stable position relative to said receiving card, said transfer member being configured with no structure for attaching said transfer member to said receiving card, said transfer member being a plate with an upper surface and with an undersurface, said undersurface having a plurality of projections extending from said undersurface, each of which projections being positioned and sized to extend away from said undersurface a distance selected so that upon registry of said projection with said first end of said pipette tips, said projections engaging said pipette tips to inhibit lateral movement of said transfer member relative to said pipette tips positioned in said matrix of card apertures, said preselected distance between the tip of the finger and the first knuckle back from the tip of said finger, said plate having a length and a width selected comparable to the length and width of said receiving card and said plate having two opposite plate edges extending along said length of said plate in substantial alignment with each other for positioning relative to said card edges, said spacing distance being selected to position said receiving card and said plate and in turn said card edges and said plate edges relative to each other at said spacing distance for simultaneous engagement by the thumb and a finger of one hand of a user to retain said receiving card and said plate in alignment and relative to each other while transferring said receiving card with said pipette tips from a first location to alignment with and positioning in said matrix of tray apertures of said dispensing tray.



17. (New Claim) The system of claim 16 wherein said receiving card and said plate have substantially the same length and width.

18. (New Claim) The system of claim 16 wherein said spacing distance is less than the distance from the first joint of the user's thumb to the tip of the user's thumb.

19. (New Claim) The system of claim 17 wherein said receiving card and said plate are substantially rectangular in shape.

20. (New Claim) The system of claim 19 wherein said projections extend into said pipette tips a distance from about one fourth of said spacing distance to about one half of said spacing distance.

21. (New Claim) A system for positioning pipette tips into a dispensing tray which has a matrix of apertures sized to receive pipette tips therein with said pipette tips having a length, said system consisting essentially of:

a receiving card having only a matrix of card apertures formed therein, said matrix of card apertures being substantially uniformly sized for positioning pipette tips there through to register with each aperture of a matrix of tray apertures of a dispensing tray, each aperture of said matrix of tray apertures being sized to receive a pipette tip therein, said receiving card having an upper surface spaced from a lower surface, said card apertures each being shaped and sized to receive a pipette tip to hold said pipette tip with receiving card having a length and a width and said receiving card having two opposite

card edges extending along said length of said receiving card in substantial alignment;
and

a transfer member for engaging and maintaining said pipette tips in a stable position relative to said receiving card, said transfer member being without structure for connecting said transfer member to said receiving card, said transfer member having an upper surface and an undersurface with a plurality of projections extending from said undersurface, each of which projections is positioned and sized to extend into one of said pipette tips a preselected distance to stably engage said pipette tips positioned in said matrix of card apertures, said transfer member having a length and a width selected comparable to the length and width of said receiving card and said plate having two opposite member edges extending along said length of said transfer member in substantial alignment with each other for positioning relative to the card edges, said spacing distance being selected to position said receiving card and said transfer member and in turn said card edges and said member edges relative to each other for simultaneous engagement by the thumb and a finger of one hand of a user to retain the receiving card and the transfer member in alignment while transferring said receiving card with said pipette tips from a first location to alignment with and positioning in said matrix of tray apertures of said dispensing tray.

